



Faces of French Cinema

William Paterson University's

French & Francophone Studies Program

2006 Tournées Festival of French Film

All screenings will be held in the Library Auditorium

Confidences trop intimes (*Intimate Strangers*) Patrice Leconte, 2004 (104)

Monday, April 3rd, 7:00 PM — 1 screening only

At her first appointment with a psychiatrist, Anna knocks on the wrong door and ends up confessing her marital problems to William, a tax accountant. Deeply moved by her confessions he consults her real psychiatrist as the two become entangled in a complicated story of love and trust.

"*Intimate Strangers*... establishes its mood of erotic suspense in the first 10 minutes and sustains [it] through variations that are by turns amusing, titillating and scary..."— Stephen Holden, *New York Times*

"...a stylish psychosexual thriller..."—Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*



Les Choristes (*The Chorus*) Christophe Barratier, 2005 (96 min)

Tuesday, April 4th, 12:25 & 7:00 — 2 screenings



In 1949, an unemployed music teacher hired to supervise children in a repressive school for juvenile delinquents begins to transform the lives of his affection-starved students by teaching them the magic of choral music. *The Chorus* portrays a France beginning to emerge from the devastation of WWII. *Original music won César (2005) and film won European Film Award (2004).*

"Its deceptively simple story delves into issues of power and authority and the tyranny of adults ... Its emotional resonance, poignancy and lifting music remain with you..."—Claudia Puig, *USA Today*

Raja Jacques Doillon, 2003 (112 min)

Tuesday, April 4th, 4:00 — 1 screening only

In his attempt to seduce her, a rich Frenchman in contemporary Marrakech ends up falling in love with his young servant. Their relationship unfolds in a context of post-colonial misunderstanding, economic manipulation, and cultural and linguistic gaps—a divided social and political world where love struggles to bloom. Najat Benssallem's *Raja* glows with intensity, freshness, and sincerity.

"*Raja*'s treacherous intersection of passion, avarice and power [offers] unsettling emotional honesty. The two central performances are spontaneous and mercurial." —Stephen Holden, *New York Times*



Les Brodeuses (*Sequins*) Eléonore Faucher, 2004 (88 min)

Wednesday, April 5th, 7:00 & Thursday, April 6th, 12:25 — 2 screenings



When 17-year old Claire discovers she is pregnant, she quits her job and begins work for Mme. Melikian, a designer of haute couture embroideries who recently lost her son. Day by day, stitch by stitch, Claire's belly grows, Mme. Melikian comes to terms with her loss, and their friendship strengthens. *Critics' Week Grand Prix and Screenwriters Award, Cannes Film Festival (2004).*

"*Sequins* is one of those films that deals with a relationship between two people with utmost delicacy, like a precious material to be handled carefully."—Florence Columbani, *Le Monde*

Le Grand Voyage Ismaël Ferroukhi, 2004 (108 min)

Thursday, April 6th, 5:00 (& Friday, April 7th, 11:00 — 2 screenings

Just as he is ready to finish high school, Réda is chosen to drive his aging father on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Separated by culture, language and religion, the two gradually travel to reconciliation. Handling cultural differences with skill, the filmmaker received rare permission to shoot in Mecca in his desire to "stop the clichés ... about a deeply pacifist community." *First Feature Award, Venice Festival (2004).*

"The filmmaker masters a sense of classical narration: he ... knows how to take advantage of a detail to reveal a situation."—Aurélien Ferencsi, *Télérama*



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